in the country has been projected to be 19.3% in 2006-07. There is no estimate of poverty available for the end of the year 2004-05, since the Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round).

Food and Nutrition Security Watch

4585. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Food and Nutrition Security Watch (FNSW) has been constituted in the Planning Commission for monitoring food availability and access situation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of major food economy programmes which are likely to come under the scanner of FNSW?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Food and Nutrition Security Watch (FNSW) is being set up in the Planning Commission. It will bring under its umbrella major programmes on Food and Nutrition covering Public Distribution System (PDS), Food for Work, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-day Meals. At the end of the year, the Food and Nutrition Security Watch would bring out reports on these Programmes.

Reducing BPL People

† 4586. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target has been set to bring 50 percent reduction in number of the people living below poverty line up 2015 in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total number and the percentage of the people living below poverty line in the country at present; and

(c) the action taken to reduce this number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) In the Tenth Plan period (2002-07), Planning Commission has set a target for reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012.

(b) The totol number and percentage of the people living below poverty line in the country for the year 1999-2000 is given in the table.

Total number and percentage of the people living below poverty line in India-1999-2000.

Rural		Urban		Total	
Number of persons (in lakhs)	%of persons	Number of persons	% of persons (in lakhs)	Number of persons (in lakhs)	%of persons
1932.42	27.09	670.07	23.62	2602.50	26.10

(c) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti poverty programmes.

There are several programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty alleviation to reduce the number of people living below poverty line in rural and urban areas. For rural areas the programmes are (i) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (ii) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (iii) Indira Awaas Yojana and (iv) National Food For Work Programme. For urban areas the programme is Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has also been tabled in Parliament on 21.12.2004.